

May 7, 1975

the director of water resources to call for, by advertising in a newspaper for three consecutive weeks, a hearing whereby those living within this area that's in need of management would come in and testify at the hearing. The director, then, would have the authority to go to these two agencies . . . state agencies that are referred to in the explanation of the committee amendments, namely the Conservation & Survey Division of the University of Nebraska, and the Natural Resources Commission, get expertise counsel, then delineate the area which in turn then would authorize the resource district to adopt its own rules and regulations, then to enforce them. Now this would apply only to an area that was in need of management. If the area, after the hearing after consultation with those that should have knowledge, the district then would have the authorization require a permit before any additional wells over the capacity of 100 gals per minute could be installed. The way the bill is presently written all applicants for a permit would receive one. In the permit it would have the authority to allocate the water that might be available on an allocation basis. The district then in turn would have the authority to enforce the drilling of these wells. No matter who wants to drill a well if it's over 100 gals in capacity could do so only after receiving a permit. They could not proceed until such permit is granted. So the bill in a nature is very very mild. It's about the best we can do. It's not the total answer. No doubt there will be other programs brought into effect. For now it certainly is a . . . I like to call it the jumping off place. It's a start. It does not give a whole lot of authority to anyone. It rests upon the responsibility of the people in the State of Nebraska to form their own rules and regulations and attempt . . . cause them to abide by it. I'm sure there will be questions. I think having said what I have now said this will be all the comments I have at the present time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: (mic inactivated) . . . Senator Kremer. Reading your sheet here concerning the outline of the bill, the bill is a pretty weak bill isn't it really? Doesn't amount to a whole lot. You can still milk the ground dry until the water runs dry . . . the well runs dry no one's going to give a darn. Isn't that about it?

SENATOR KREMER: Well I don't think this is right Senator Syas. If you read the bill . . . I could refer you to the . . . you have to trust me . . .

SENATOR SYAS: . . . water shortage exists, but you never know where the shortage is going to be. So . . .

SENATOR KREMER: The bill spells out a formula whereby, if you're drawing the water out of the North pasture and it's beind recharged, you can call for hearing. If the people in the district want it, it's up to them to say that we want it. You can't control . . .

SENATOR SYAS: What if you're on the line of a district? One side of the fence is doing one thing, the other side isn't?